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MORNING PAPERS.THURSDAY August 12th, 1948.

"Russia's policy in the Middle East.
Its means and aims".

Under the above heading Al Ahram writes: "According to press reports, the Russian diplomatic representative and his team arrived in Tel Aviv. This news made one wonder about Russia's policy in the Middle East and its means and aims. Why does Russia support Zionism? Why did she recognize the so called State of Israel? Why is she so strongly opposed to the Arabs at the Security Council? Why is she putting obstacles in the way of solving the Arab refugee problem? Why did she put trained communists among the Jews who arrived in Palestine and Cyprus from East Europe? According to a senior diplomat who knows all about the policy of the big nations in the Middle East, Russia's policy may be summarised as follows: Russia's policy in the Middle East is part of her world policy and not an independent policy which was planned solely for this part of the world. Russia has been following for the past few years in the Middle East a policy which aimed more at weakening her opponents in this area rather than making friends with the M.E. nations. In order to make friends, Russia would have to commit herself to help these friends achieve certain aims, a thing which she would be unable to do. Making trouble for her opponents, however, is easy and costs her nothing. Take for example her policy in Palestine. Russia had a chance to support the Arabs when their case was brought before the United Nations, had she wanted to. She would then have gained the friendship of 50 million inhabitants of one of the most important regions in the world. But by supporting the Arabs at the United Nations she would have to support them if a war breaks out over the Palestinian issue. Arab friendship would therefore prove to be more of a burden than an asset to Russia at present. But the Russians knew that by promoting disturbances in the M.E. similar to the disturbances which took place in Italy, France, or India, her opponents would become weak. She does not need many agents to promote disturbances. A few well-trained agents would be sufficient.

"Russia's support of Zionism may also be due to the following reasons:

- 1 - Her desire to make friends among the Zionists of the West.
- 2 - Partition is a means to weaken Britain in the Middle East seeing that partition would result in the British evacuation of Palestine and the end of the British mandate.
- 3 - Russia's desire to do harm to America's reputation. The success of the Zionists is believed by the Arabs to be due to America's political and financial support. The Arabs used to

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think that Zionism was a form of British economic colonization. They now believe that it is a form of dollar colonization. Russian agents are whispering here and there that Russia voted for partition in order to expose America's imperialistic aims.

4 - Russia hopes that partition will lead to disturbances of such nature that the United Nations might find it necessary to send an international armed force (which would include Russian soldiers) to the Middle East to enforce peace and order.

5 - Russia also supported partition in order to establish a precedence. She may now ask for the establishment of the states of Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, and Macedonia, in Iran, Turkey, and Greece".

Palestine.

The Damascus correspondent of Al Ahram reports that the Syrian government has made military service compulsory for every Syrian male citizen who is physically fit to fight. The Syrian government intends to save Palestine at all costs, says the correspondent who goes on to say that Syria intends to ask the Arab countries to follow a certain policy towards the countries which supported partition. Syria will also try to recruit the help of Dr. Malan, the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa who was a close friend of Hitler and is well-known for his anti-Zionist sympathies, reports Al Ahram.

Al Misri gives special prominence to the news that the Jews are planning with the aid of American money, to let 1,500,000 Jewish immigrants enter Palestine before the end of 1949.

Al Misri also publishes a message from its New York correspondent in which he says that the New York Times published the text of an interview between its correspondent in the Middle East and the leader of the Irgun in which the latter admitted that the Zionists aimed at getting hold of the whole of Palestine as well as Transjordan.

Commenting on the story, Al Misri says: "This interview has unveiled some of the criminal plans of the Zionists in the Middle East. This is the Zionism which America, Russia, and England support. We have to destroy it before it destroys us. Any sacrifices which we may be called upon to make are worth it. The destruction of Zionism may be very costly to the Arabs, but no matter how many Arab lives or how much Arab money we have to lose before we destroy this evil, we have to do it".

Azzam Pasha told Al Misri that the Arab League had sent the refugees in the Egyptian-controlled part of Palestine yesterday August 11th, the sum of LE 5,000.

Under the headline: "Save Jerusalem", Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun publishes an article in which it appeals to the Arab governments to rush Arab troops to Jerusalem to save it from the alleged coup-d'état which Irgun is said to be contemplating.

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Al Assas scoops other Arabic newspapers by publishing the text of the protests sent by Secretary General of the Arab League Azzam Pasha to Count Bernadotte and Mr Trygvio Lie against Jewish violation of the truce, the smuggling of arms to the Jews, and the seizure of the Haifa oil refineries by the Jews. In his notes of protest to Bernadotte and Lie dated August 8th Abdolrahman Azzam Pasha charged that the Jews burnt alive 28 Arab inhabitants of Al Tora village near Haifa. In his protest to Bernadotte dated July 26th, the Pasha said that since the truce began the Jews received flying fortresses, big guns, and tanks. The tanks were stolen from the British, and the Mediator is requested to use his good offices to persuade Britain to give the Arabs the same number of tanks as those which were stolen from the British by the Jews. In his protest dated August 8th, the Pasha asked the Count to prevent the Jews from using the oil refineries at Haifa whose seizure by the Jews was flagrant violation of the truce.

Al Assas also scoops other papers by publishing the text of a letter sent by Azzam Pasha to Count Bernadotte in which he asked that the Arab conditions for the acceptance of the truce be brought to the attention of the Security Council. He also asked the Count to form a committee or a similar body with the approval of the United Nations for the purpose of estimating the damages suffered by the Arab refugees.

The Sudan.

The Arabic press gives wide publicity to messages received from alleged newspaper correspondents in Khartoum concerning alleged persecution by the British authorities in the Sudan of the Unionists who advocate unity with Egypt. According to the alleged Khartoum correspondent of Al Assas, some 2000 men demonstrated at Omdorman, shouted slogans against Britain, and attacked the British Commandant of the City's police force. Some of the rioters were arrested and are facing trial at present. The correspondent concludes his story by expressing sorrow for the inhabitants of Cairo where heat and humidity are intolerable. He says that Khartoum is enjoying excellent weather at present.

Al Mussawar reports that Al Sayed Ali Al Merghany Pasha, the Sudanese religious leader, has formally declared himself against the Sudanisation project which aims at giving the Sudanese home rule. He maintains that the project as it stands is not good enough.

Al Misri does not claim to have received a message from its Sudan correspondent concerning the alleged persecution of the Unionists, but merely reports under a glaring headline that the Sudanese authorities have embarked on "a campaign of terrorism" against the Unionists. It refers to the trial of rioters and says that sentences will be

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passed on the offenders to-morrow August 13th.

It is interesting to note that Al Kutla published an editorial sometime ago (which was duly translated in this Review) in which it said that it envied the Sudanese because they were enjoying more freedom under British administration than the Egyptians under Nokrashi Pasha's administration.

Al Misri also publishes an editorial in to-day's issue August 12th under the headline "In the Sudan" in which it blames the present Egyptian government for adopting a negative attitude towards the British-sponsored Sudanisation project. "Millions of Egyptians and Sudanese expect the Egyptian government to take action" concludes Al Misri which fails, however, to say what action it expects the Egyptian government to take.

The Suez Canal Company ignores the Egyptian government's attempt to apply the Companies law.

Al Misri publishes a short article under the headline "The Suez Canal Company refuses to execute the Companies law", in which it says that the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce has sent three letters to the Suez Canal Company within the past 2 months in which it asked that the Company should execute the provisions of the Companies bill and that in the event of the Company refusing to do so, the government would take legal action. The Company ignored the letters, complains Al Misri.

The Arab countries mediate between Egypt and Britain.

Al Mussawar, the most important pictorial weekly in Egypt, writes: "Some Senior Arab leaders tried sometime ago to mediate between Egypt and Britain with a view to making them resume Anglo-Egyptian negotiations in a friendly spirit. The mediation failed but has now taken place once more in a different shape. The Arab mediators told Egypt that the Arab countries would consider it a personal favour if Egypt accepted the hand of friendship which Britain extended to her".

Al Mussawar concludes by saying that it disapproves of this Arab mediation and that the only way for Britain to settle her differences with Egypt is to agree to Egypt's demands.